

that we passed a law which barred Douglas County from paying...as I understand it now Douglas County pays for the third judge. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Douglas County pays for the associate judges, right.

SENATOR LAMB: The associate judge, but you said that we passed a law which now prohibits Douglas County from continuing that process?

SENATOR BEUTLER: We passed a law that repealed the statute that allows them to appoint an associate judge, so with the passage of Judge Mullen to the district court they would have to appoint a new judge and they have no power to do so.

SENATOR LAMB: What bill was that that...

SENATOR BEUTLER: LB 13.

SENATOR LAMB: Who introduced the bill?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I did with some others.

SENATOR LAMB: Okay, well I guess what I see here is that we have, and correct me if I'm wrong, we have a situation here where we're pushing some more of the court costs over on the state rather than on the county. Is that right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Lamb, last year and until the present change of Mullen to the district court, it's true that we were doing that as a matter of what I consider to be and some others consider to be good public policy. But at this point in time the question is deeper than that. It's not just a matter of which you prefer as a matter of public policy but you need to get another judge there.

SENATOR LAMB: Well but the basic situation here that has developed is that first we passed a bill saying that the county cannot support the judge, that it has to be a state funded operation. Now we're coming back with another bill which says we did this thing which has a potential of hurting the...damaging the situation in Douglas County so now we're under the gun to pass a bill which has funding of \$95,000 or so to pick up the tab which I'm sure you, as a lawyer, knew this was coming down the road when you passed